

**A Commentary on the Holy Bible**  
**Rev. Dr Donald M. Boyd**

**An extract from**  
**The prophecy of Ezekiel**

**The chapter summaries for Ezekiel 1–4**  
as at 18/6/2015  
for Graham Mair.

[donaldboyd@btinternet.com](mailto:donaldboyd@btinternet.com)  
[www.donaldboyd.org](http://www.donaldboyd.org)

- Ch01 Summary      In the fifth year of the captivity in Babylon of Jehoiachin, the king of Judah <sup>v2</sup>, Ezekiel the priest <sup>v3</sup>, the son of Buzi <sup>v3</sup>, was among the captives by the river Chebar <sup>vv1,3</sup>, also in the land of the Chaldeans <sup>v3</sup>, when the heavens were opened and he was given divine visions <sup>v1; Ezk 8:4</sup> of the glory of the Lord <sup>v28; Ezk 3:23</sup>. On the fifth day <sup>vv1-2</sup> of the fourth month <sup>v1</sup> of this year, the word of the Lord impressed Ezekiel when the hand of the Lord was upon him <sup>v3</sup> and he saw a whirlwind come out of the north, with a great cloud and fire <sup>v4</sup>. Four living creatures <sup>v5</sup> emerged from this fiery whirlwind <sup>v4</sup>, each with four different <sup>v10</sup> faces and four wings <sup>v6</sup>, and with the appearance of burning coals <sup>v13</sup>. They were cherubim <sup>Ezk 10:5</sup> who moved in straight lines <sup>v12</sup> like a flash of lightening <sup>v14</sup>. They were beneath the firmament <sup>v22</sup>, and a Voice came from the firmament above the cherubim <sup>v25</sup>, above which was a throne <sup>v26</sup> with a man upon it <sup>v26</sup> with flaming fire spreading upwards and downwards from his loins <sup>v27</sup>, and a surrounding rainbow <sup>v28</sup>. This whole scene had the likeness of the Lord appearing in His glory upon his chariot-throne <sup>v26</sup>. When Ezekiel saw it, he fell on his face, and he heard a Voice speak <sup>v28</sup> to him <sup>Ezk 2:1</sup>.
- Ch02 Summary      In Ezekiel's vision <sup>Ezk 1:1,3-4,27</sup> the Voice <sup>Ezk 1:24,25,28</sup> spoke to Ezekiel, calling him 'son of man' <sup>v1</sup>, and commissioning him to the rebellious children of Israel <sup>v3</sup>. The Lord <sup>v4</sup> told him that he lived among briars, thorns and scorpions <sup>v6</sup>, yet they shall know that he was a prophet <sup>v5</sup>. He was not to be afraid of them <sup>v6</sup> but to speak God's Word whatever reception he received <sup>v7</sup>. He is told to listen and not to rebel like the rebellious house of Israel <sup>Ezk 3:1</sup>, but to open his mouth and eat what the Lord gives him <sup>v8</sup>. A hand reached out to Ezekiel, holding a scroll <sup>v9</sup>, which it spread open to show lamentations, mourning and woe written both inside and outside the scroll <sup>v10</sup>.
- Ch03 Summary      In his vision <sup>Ezk 1:1,3-4,27</sup> Ezekiel had been given a scroll <sup>Ezk 2:8</sup> and the Lord now commanded him to eat it <sup>v1; Ezk 2:8-9</sup> and to speak to the house of Israel <sup>v1</sup>. He opened his mouth and the Lord caused him to eat the scroll <sup>v2</sup>, and it was as sweet as honey in his mouth <sup>v3</sup>. He is told to go to the house of Israel and to speak the Word of God <sup>v11; Ezk 2:4</sup> to them <sup>v4</sup>. He was not sent to the Babylonians <sup>v5</sup> – if he had been, they would have listened to him <sup>v6</sup>; but the house of Israel will not listen to him because

they are all impudent and hardhearted and will not listen even to God <sup>v7</sup>. The Lord strengthened Ezekiel against their opposition <sup>v8</sup> and told him not to fear them nor be dismayed at their looks <sup>v9</sup>. Ezekiel was then bodily transported by the Spirit of God <sup>vv12,14; Ezk 11:24</sup> to speak to the Jews of the captivity <sup>v11</sup> at Telabib by the river Chebar <sup>v15</sup>, at which he heard various noises <sup>vv12-13</sup> behind him including ‘Blessed be the glory of the Lord’ <sup>v12</sup>. He was embittered by their attitude <sup>v14</sup> and he sat astonished among them seven days <sup>v15</sup>. After seven days <sup>v16</sup> the Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to commission him as a watchman to the house of Israel <sup>v17</sup> to give the Jews in captivity <sup>v11</sup> warning from God <sup>v17</sup>. The Lord told Ezekiel to go into the plain where He will talk with him <sup>v22</sup>. Ezekiel arose and went into the plain where he saw the glory of the Lord <sup>v23</sup>, the ‘vision in the plain’ <sup>Ezk 8:4</sup>, which he had seen earlier by the river Chebar, and he fell on his face <sup>v23</sup> as before <sup>Ezk 1:28</sup>. The Spirit told him to shut himself in his house <sup>v24</sup> and to be dumb <sup>v26</sup> except for the words that He will give him to speak <sup>v27</sup>. He was to remain domiciled there for over a year <sup>Ezk 4:5-6</sup>, where he would enact the siege of Jerusalem <sup>Ezk 4:1-2</sup>.

#### Ch04 Summary

In his own home <sup>Ezk 3:24</sup>, Ezekiel is told to make a model <sup>vv1-3</sup> of Jerusalem under siege <sup>vv1-3</sup>, to re-enact Nebuchadnezzar’s earlier siege of Jerusalem in king Jehoiachin’s reign <sup>2K 24:8-11; Ezk 1:2</sup>. He is to lie on his side to indicate the length of their punishment <sup>vv4-6</sup>, three hundred and ninety days on his left side to bear the iniquity of the house of Israel <sup>v5</sup> and forty days on his right side for the iniquity of the house of Judah <sup>v6</sup>. It symbolises their continued captivity among the Gentiles <sup>v13</sup> and prefigures Nebuchadnezzar’s second siege of Jerusalem <sup>vv16-17</sup> in the ninth year of the captivity <sup>Ezk 24:1-2</sup>.

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